

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

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R 281349Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

UNCLAS STATE 170789

FOL TEL FROM BEIRUT AUG 27, 1973 TO SECSTATE WASHDC INFO
TEL AVIV AND TRIPOLI IS REPTD.

QTE UNCLAS BEIRUT 10091

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR LY EG

SUBJ: QADHAFI PESSIMISTIC ON MERGER PROSPECTS

1. INDEPENDENT DAILY AN NAHAR (AUG 27) REPORTED CAIRO
CORRESPONDENT FU'AD MATAR INTERVIEW WITH COL. QADHAFI
ON PURPOSE AND PROSPECTS OF PRESENT SURPRISE TRIP TO
CAIRO. QADHAFI SAID HE IN CAIRO "TO SEE PRES. SADAT" AND
TO EXPEDITE EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT ON MERGER FORMULA AND
MECHANISMS OF REFERENDUM SINCE EGYPT HAD NOT REPLIED TO
LATEST LIBYAN OVERTURES DESPITE APPROACHING SEPT. 1
DEADLINE.

2. QADHAFI SAID HE HAD OFFERED SADAT TWO FORMULI:
THAT SADAT DRAFT AND PRESENT A MERGER PROPOSAL TO
BE VOTED ON IN EACH COUNTRY, OR EGYPT AND LIBYA EACH
SUBMIT PROPOSITION, WITH POPULAR REFERENDUM TO DETER-
MINE WHICH MORE ACCEPTABLE. QADHAFI NOTED THE ANTICI-
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PATED EGYPTIAN PROPOSALS WOULD NOT GAIN LARG APPROVAL,

BUT THE MASSES, WITH THEIR "FULL KNOWLEDGE OF TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS" SHOULD DECIDE. SADAT IN TURN PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE PREPARE MERGER PLAN ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS, WHICH QADHAFI REJECTED AS "NOT POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF NUMEROUS POINTS OF DISSENTION."

3. QADHAFI CLAIMED SUCCESS OR FAILURE RESTS WITH SADAT, WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE SHOULD SEPT. 1 PASS WITHOUT MERGER. QADHAFI OBSERVED NO ONE KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN SEPT. 1, ALTHOUGH HE AND ENTOURAGE PESSIMISTIC AS TO PROSPECTS.
BUFFUM

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